

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Claims 1. – 24. (Canceled)

25. (Currently Amended) An agglutination immunoassay for assaying an ~~antigen~~ antibody, comprising a polypeptide, wherein said immunoassay comprises:

(a) preparing a nucleic acid-bound polypeptide by binding a nucleic acid to said polypeptide through a nucleic acid-binding motif in said polypeptide, and fixing said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide on the surface of particles;

(b) contacting the particles obtained in (a) with a sample, wherein said sample may contain an antibody to said ~~an antigen~~, wherein said antigen is said polypeptide fixed on the surface of solid particles; and

(c) measuring agglutination images of said particles caused by formation of antigen-antibody complex.

26. (Original) The agglutination immunoassay as claimed in Claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide.

27. (Original) The agglutination immunoassay as claimed in Claim 25, wherein said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide further comprises a nucleic acid-binding motif through which said nucleic acid is bound to said polypeptide.

28. (Original) The agglutination immunoassay as claimed in Claim 26, wherein said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide further comprises a nucleic acid-binding motif through which said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide.

29. (Original) The agglutination immunoassay as claimed in Claim 27, wherein said polypeptide and said nucleic acid-binding motif are expressed in the form of a fusion polypeptide by genetic engineering.

30. (Original) The agglutination immunoassay as claimed in Claim 28, wherein said

polypeptide and said nucleic acid-binding motif are expressed in the form of a fusion polypeptide by genetic engineering.

31. (Previously Presented) The agglutination immunoassay according to Claim 27, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

32. (Previously Presented) The agglutination immunoassay according to Claim 28, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

33. (Currently Amended) A method for increasing immunological reactivity of a polypeptide in an agglutination immunoassay ~~utilizing agglutination of particles on which said polypeptide is bound, said method comprising binding a nucleic acid to said polypeptide through a nucleic acid-binding motif in said polypeptide~~ for assaying an antibody, wherein said immunoassay comprises:

(a) preparing a nucleic acid-bound polypeptide by binding a nucleic acid to said polypeptide through a nucleic acid-binding motif in said polypeptide, and fixing said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide on the surface of particles;

(b) contacting the particles obtained in (a) with a sample, wherein said sample may contain an antibody to an antigen, wherein said antigen is said polypeptide fixed on the surface of solid particles; and

(c) measuring agglutination images of said particles caused by formation of antigen-antibody complex.

34. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide.

35. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 33, wherein said nucleic

acid-bound polypeptide further comprises a nucleic acid-binding motif through which said nucleic acid is bound to said polypeptide.

36. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 34, wherein said nucleic acid-bound polypeptide further comprises a nucleic acid-binding motif through which said nucleic acid is bound to at least one terminus of said polypeptide.

37. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said polypeptide and said nucleic acid-binding motif are expressed in the form of a fusion polypeptide by genetic engineering.

38. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 36, wherein said polypeptide and said nucleic acid binding motif are expressed in the form of a fusion polypeptide by genetic engineering.

39. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 35, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

40. (Previously Presented) The method according to Claim 36, wherein said nucleic acid-binding motif has an amino acid sequence as set forth in SEQ ID NO:2.

SUPPORT FOR THE AMENDMENTS

Claims 25 and 33 have been amended.

The amendment of Claims 25 and 33 is supported by Example 5 (pages 27-29). The amendment of Claims 25 and 33 is further supported by the specification and claims as originally filed.

No new matter is believed to be entered by the present amendments.